

40th Anniversary Edition

Final



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PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Associations Incorporation Act 1981 - Registered No A0029363K

NEWSLETTER

PROBUS CLUB OF PORT PHILLIP Inc.

Chartered on 25 March, 1986, Incorporated on 9 May, 1994

This Probuss Club meets at:

Kew Golf Club, 120 Belford Road, East Kew 3102

At 10:00 am, 2nd Tuesday in the Month (excepting January)

The Club can be contacted by email at : portphillipprobuss@gmail.com

The Club's web site details are: www.probussouthpacific.org/microsites/portphillipm

Issue 436

July 2025

PRESIDENT

Prof. F. Larkins (Frank)

Mob: 0400 109 785

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SECRETARY

Dr. V. Beck (Vaughan)

Mob: 0418 362 792

E: vbeck@bigpond.com

Special Anniversary Lunch – Tuesday, 8th July, 2025

Kew Golf Club, 120 Belford Rd, Kew East, 3102 (Melway Ref. 45 G1)

IMPORTANT DATES in July, 2025

Deadline for Special Lunch Bookings	5.00 pm	Saturday 28 th June
NO Meeting	Lunch starts	11:30 am Tuesday 8 th July

PROBUS PORT PHILLIP 40TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Arrangements for the Booking and Payment for Lunch on July 8

Venue: Kew Golf Club, 120 Bedford Road, Kew East

Time: 11.30am Tuesday 8th July for Welcoming Drinks and Canapes

NOTE: There is NO General Meeting on this occasion.

Cost: \$65.00pp (Includes all drinks, Canapes, Main Course and Dessert (Cake))

Timeline: Booking and Payment must be finalised by 5.00 pm Saturday 28 June

40th Anniversary Edition

Booking Arrangements: Please **TEXT** me (Jim Studebaker) on **0413 304 864** or **EMAIL** me at wjstudebaker48@gmail.com if you wish to attend the lunch. At the same time, please notify me of any guests, including past members, (and any dietary requirements) you have invited and are attending this special event.

PLEASE NOTE: Booking (and payment) must be made no later than **5.00pm Saturday 28th June**

Payment arrangements: Payments of the **\$65.00** by direct credit to the club's bank account is preferred. For this luncheon, payment must be cleared into the Club's account no later than **5.00pm Saturday June 28th** and make sure your name is included on the transfer.

A/C Name: "Probus Club of Port Phillip", BSB: 033 058, A/C NO 750921.

If paying by cash or cheque, please place in an envelope clearly marked LUNCH showing your name and those of your guests. The correct amount must be tendered as no change in given. Envelopes need to be prepared before arrival. Everyone who has paid will be given a table number and can request one for each guest.

Jim Studebaker – Catering Officer TEXT: 0413 304 864

EMAIL: wjstudebaker48@gmail.com

Message from the President



Dear Probus Colleagues,

Valerie and I have spent a few weeks in Ballina, Northern New South Wales, for our grandchildren's birthdays and to support a long-time friend who lost his wife last year and now requires some surgery himself. The experience was a reminder to me of how important it is to have a few good friends, be they family or others, that are available when support is required.

Friendship is one of the enduring goals of being a Probus member. If you do need support of any kind please reach out to other members including the Management Committee, because making.

40th Anniversary Edition

friends is an important reason for our existence. In this context I have written to Anne St. George on behalf of all of us wishing her a complete recovery. Susan Harraway has been in regular contact with Anne, i.e. 'a good friend.' Ross Fardon, as our Almoner, is exceptional in keeping us all informed about the health of some members who are unable to be regular attendees. Do follow up with those members where appropriate. Our membership directory has member's contacts. I was very concerned, along with many members, to learn of Warren Craig's car accident. I have written to him sending our best wishes for a successful recovery.

The July regular meeting is replaced by our 40th Celebration lunch on the 8th July at the Kew Golf Club starting at 11.30 am. Our Catering Manager, Jim Studebaker, has been coordinating all the arrangements. A special communication has been sent and further details are to be found in this Newsletter. Please make a special effort to attend this memorable event.

The Management Committee has been exploring the benefits of joining the Probus Association of Victoria (PAV) and has decided to join as advised at the June meeting. A link that describes the activities of the PAV is: <https://www.probusvic.com.au/pav-information/why-membership-of-pav/>

The PAV has been established to assist Victorian Probus clubs through a variety of ways, such as:

- Networking and information sharing.
- Resource sharing.
- Training and development activities.
- Promotion of Club activities.

The PAV, which publish "The Victorian Probian", five times a year had in their February-March 2025 edition, a comprehensive coverage of the Club's November 2024 Getaway as a promotional feature. The magazine contains a breath of articles on matters such as: visits, trips and getaways undertaken by various Probus clubs as well as some advertisements on destinations to visit and retirement villages. It seems that most of the publication costs are paid for by advertisements.

Cost of membership of the PAV is \$0:40 per member per year. In our case that equates to some \$32.80 per year for the club. The Victorian Probian, which is distributed free to member organisations, is delivered to some 400) Clubs. It can also be accessed digitally; see: <https://www.probusvic.com.au/publications/victorian-probian/>

40th Anniversary Edition

As advised at the June meeting the Management Committee has resolved to join the PAV. When published, "The Victorian Probian" will be placed on the front desk at our General Meetings for members to collect a copy should they wish.

Another important development is that the Management Committee has accepted the proposal from our Website Manager, Adrian Farrell, to engage a professional to redevelop our website to be hosted by Wix.com, with on-going web hosting fees and domain name renewal each year thereafter. The costs in the first year will be approximately \$820 for website development, web hosting and domain name. These costs are covered by the residual funds available from the Boroondara Council planning grant. For the second year and beyond the costs will be approximately \$220 p.a. for Wix web hosting and domain renewal. This decision was also reported to the June meeting.

The Honorary Treasurer, John Frew, has assured me that we have a healthy bank balance that can sustain the on-going payments for web hosting and PAV membership.

I was sorry to miss the climate change talk by Graeme Pearman. I trust that those present enjoyed his presentation. He has a distinguished career as a climate scientist. In the early 2000s he was Chief of CSIRO Atmospheric Research. For more than 50 years he has researched the climate and gained an international reputation as an authoritative spokesperson.

I look forward to the July celebrations with great expectations. We have invited past presidents and getaway organisers to contribute to this newsletter some memories of their time in a leadership role for the club. Their thoughts will make interesting reading.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do not look back. You are not going that way.

Frank Larkins

President 2025-26

Notice of the Death of Bill Draper

Ian Webb has informed the Club of the death of former member Bill Draper who passed away last week. He and wife Jenny were active members quite some years ago, and a number of our longer-term members will have known them well. We were notified by Lynne Wilson who has remained close to the Drapers. There was a private funeral. In his professional life Bill was a CSIRO scientist.

40th Anniversary Edition

Memories, memories..

Former Presidents and Getaway Organisers recall some of the activities and incidents that stood out for them during their periods in office.

Past Presidents

Mal Fleming – President 2005 – 06

At that time the Club met at the Veneto Club on Bulleen Road. However, after a disastrous lunch of a warm chicken salad, following which, quite a few Members became unwell, it was decided to move the Club meetings to Hawthorn Receptions (now demolished).

During this year, Probus Central South Pacific required each Club in Australia to adopt a standardized Constitution. A further initiative was to establish Role Descriptions for all the Committee and Support positions in the Club in order to facilitate the transmission of responsibilities from one year to the next. As at March 2006, the Club had 98 Members. Two Members inducted in April 2005 have been presented with their 20 year award this year.

The Getaway to Wagga Wagga was a rare out-of-State venue. There were 75 participants. March 2006 marked the Club's 20th Birthday and a special lunch was arranged at Hawthorn Receptions at which many of the Club's Foundation Members and Past Presidents attended.

Milton Myers- President 2008-9

I joined our Club in late 2003 when we met at the Collingwood Football Ground. Lunches, for those choosing the option, were simple, nutritious and inexpensive. I managed to attend my first Getaway at Mildura by juggling my Overseas travel. President Bill Dix suggested I get involved in club affairs and help the new President, Gordon Brown to organize his chosen Getaway to Hamilton. It was a splendid Getaway with eighty odd members/associates, which needed two Motels for accommodation and filled two busses each day we moved out of town. The following year I worked with Rod Westerman who was planning the Wagga getaway for President Mal Fleming. Our Annual Getaway, with its final night Mystery location/dinner, remains part of our Club's fun & fellowship.

Andrew Turner – President 2010 – 11

Some highlights and lowlights of my Presidential Year were:

- A Committee was convened to review how the membership could be bolstered with younger members – the average age was then 80+ years;
- The outcome was met with howls about age discrimination;

40th Anniversary Edition

- The proposal to have the Getaway at Shepparton was met with *What was there to do in Shepparton?*
- The getaway was a great success with a visit to high end horse stud owned by the Moonee Valley Vice-President, along with authoritative briefings on the Murray Darling Basin Plan and local history;
- There was excellent catering provided by the motel and a luncheon held at a local person's garden;
- There was an excellent mystery Italian dinner feast at Montichino winery; and
- A complaint on the first morning by a member's lack of sleep because of noise from a neighbour's room was solved by antagonist and protagonist walking back to their rooms from breakfast at same time only to discover they were the neighbours.

Ian Webb – President 2014 – 15



The annual Getaway is usually the highlight of the year and Launceston was no exception. Sixty six of us were indebted to John and Meredith Baldwin for wonderful organisation and choices of activities – and an unexpected ‘farewell to the stage’ speech by Shakespearean actor John Bell in the theatre opposite our hotel.

Having heard late member Steve Cowie talk about building the suspension bridge near Launceston, then to visit a museum a day later and see a much younger version of Steve talking to the Premier about it on a video loop, was quite a surprise.

David Sutherland – President 2016 – 17

What a wonderful idea to celebrate this anniversary with a special lunch. I was President at the 30 year mark which was a much more sedate affair! Mal Fleming distributed a wonderful history booklet recording the club's activities – “30 Years of Fellowship”. It was my first meeting as President and I was rather nervous.

Peter Laver, our Speakers Coordinator, had arranged for Rowena Allen, Gender and Sexuality Commissioner for Victoria, to speak about “Why LGBTI Equality? Why now?” I had been fielding phone calls all week from irate members who insisted that this was **not** an appropriate topic for Probus! But it all ended happily. Rowena completely charmed everyone and many thought it the best talk we had all year.

John Hicks – President 2017 – 18

The most important innovation in that year was the introduction of *Coffee & Conversation* as a monthly event replacing *Walks* which were attracting less support. I invited Gilbert Ralph to chair the meetings, which he did so well for the initial years.

40th Anniversary Edition

The Annual Getaway was in Canberra with my good mate Warrick Mitchell running the event. Naturally, it was very successful. I greatly enjoyed my year as President & had wonderful support from my partner Lois Bell

Allan Schurmann – President 2018 – 19

The most memorable and important event that occurred during my term as President was Club members approving the Committee's recommendation to change the Club's membership status from "Men Only" to "Men and Women" and it was my privilege, as President, to chair the meeting that brought this change into effect.

Having said that, it is important to say that the wives and partners of members have always played an important role in the Club's activities. The change now formalizes this role and strengthens our membership criteria, which will help ensure the long-term future of the Club.

Frank Larkins – President 2019 - 20

Motions prepared by Neil Pearce and myself to enable women to become full members of the club were adopted at the March 2019 AGM under the guidance of the 2018-19 President Allan Schurmann. Our male-only club was losing members, but we had wonderful women as associate members. The July 2019 meeting of the Committee of Management was history-making because applications from sixteen women were approved to become full members. They were inducted in September 2019. Recruitment of new members was predominantly by word of mouth. We developed a website, brochure and poster. A foundation was laid for revival and the rest is history.

Don McAllister – President 2022 – 23

The highlights of my term included the "carry-over" Mini-max Getaway to Warrnambool (by Neil Pearce); having a new Committee with 7 women members, including Susan Harraway as VP; and also having Lois Bell's Leadership of the re-enthused Coffee and Conversation. In addition, I benefitted from Marg Hill's fantastic organization for the Shepparton Getaway, where there had to be a last minute switch to a Torquay adventure, due to floods, and John and Marsha Rankin's support for the following Hobart Getaway.

I owe much to the magnificent support from Russell and Pam Smith (and special thanks Pam for the streamlined desk procedures). One highlight of the year was Victor Perton's exhortation for the Bright Side of Life.

Finally, there was the recognition of service of Women Members (as "wives or associates") so making six members eligible for 20 year awards. I believe that these actions were in accord with the vision of Frank Larkin several years earlier to democratize and grow the club.

40th Anniversary Edition

Susan Harraway – President 2023 – 24

In 2021 Don McAllister asked me to be his Vice President. Without much thought I accepted. It took a while for me to realise that I would be the first woman President of the Club in 2023. A few years earlier the club, under the leadership of Frank Larkin, had become a mixed membership club. Prior to this, women were always welcome but did not have any role on the committee.

I was proud of the fact that membership was increasing during my presidency and new members were encouraged to become more active in the club. It was an honour to be the first woman President and hope there will be other women who will take on this role.

Peter Laver – President 2024 – 25

My presidential term is too recent for either embellishment or nostalgia. However looking back I think it was a pretty good twelve months, no crises, excellent speakers, a financial and administration system that worked superbly, quality catering (except some dud sausages one month), and an outstanding Getaway. We finished the year with more members and more in the bank than when we started.

From a planning session we ran earlier this year we found we have a contented membership not wanting significant change.

The good thing about all of this was that the President had nothing to do with it. I was blessed with a committee that just got on with their jobs, solving their own problems and never complaining. I only wish this had been the case for all my working life.

Getaway Organisers

Mal Fleming – Getaway Organiser 2008 - Ballarat

Seventy one members and wives/partners attended who were all accommodated in the Bell Tower Motel on the West side of Ballarat. The Program included an informed tour of the City, with visits to the Eureka Stockade Museum, Her Majesty's Theatre, and Craig's Hotel including a High Tea. Other visits were made to the Botanic Gardens with its Avenue of Prime Ministers, Sovereign Hill, the Gold Museum, a workboot manufacturing business and a Quilters' supply shop in Sebastopol.

A special outing was to an historic homestead and garden at Ercildoune, near Burumbeet. This was followed by a visit to a wind farm under construction near Learmonth.

40th Anniversary Edition

A highlight was a visit to The Ballarat Art Gallery where we were hosted by Jan Thomson's sister, Nicole. The original Eureka flag was on view. The final dinner, which was a great success, was at Sovereign Hill, and, through the auspices of Jan Pritchard's daughter, everyone dressed up in period costume.

Barbara and Warrick Mitchell – Getaway Organisers 2015 - Adelaide

There were 80 participants in the 2018 Getaway to Adelaide. Highlights included a visit to the Barossa Valley including a winery, Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide, visit and lunch at the recently renovated Adelaide oval (prior to our visit we had one of the lead architects as our guest speaker at Probus), and the Adelaide Art Gallery.

On the Wednesday we visited Carrick Hill a 100 acre heritage property in the Adelaide Hills once owned by the Chairman of John Martins Department store -of course we had a delightful Devonshire tea whilst admiring the great view over Adelaide. Hans Heysen house and gallery at Hahndorf was another highlight. The final dinner was held in the magnificent Adelaide Library – a wonderful finale to the Getaway.

John and Marsha Rankin – Getaway Organisers 2023 - Hobart

We had the pleasure of organising the Hobart Getaway three times! We tried for November 2020 but it was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. We tried again in 2021 and it looked like it would go ahead but with restrictions renewed it was again cancelled. We decided to miss a year then aimed for November 2023, this time with success. Based at the RACV Hotel, everything went smoothly and Members enjoyed visits to, among others, MONA, Richmond, Mt Field National Park, the Theatre Royal, the Female Factory and Anglesea Barracks. And we had some great dinners and lunches, including an after dinner talk by the Lord Mayor.

Dedrie and Jim Green - Getaway Organisers 2024 - Warrnambool

Our November 2024 getaway to Warrnambool was varied and enjoyable with a jam-packed programme stretching over four days. Thirty four members were treated to unique local knowledge and experiences. Fiona of Warrnambool Tours was a cheerful, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and tireless coach driver and guide. The highlight of the getaway was the final dinner at the Koroit Catholic Convent. The luxurious dining room would rival any palace, and we were spoiled with live harp music after dinner.

Returning to Melbourne was tough after such an extraordinary trip. We certainly got to know each other much better and had a lot of fun at the same time.

40th Anniversary Edition

July Secretary's Report

In this month's President's Message, it is noted that the Club has recently joined the Probus Association of Victoria. One of the benefits of membership is the availability of the publication "The Victorian Probian". It is expected that the publication will be available for collection at the registration desk at the August/ September and the October/ November General Meetings of the Club.

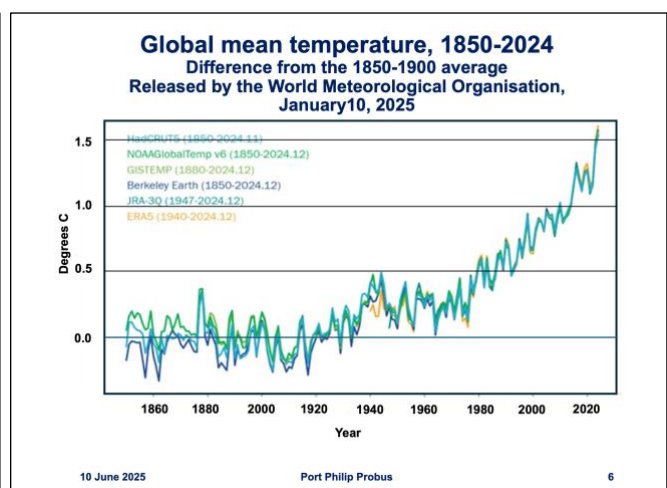
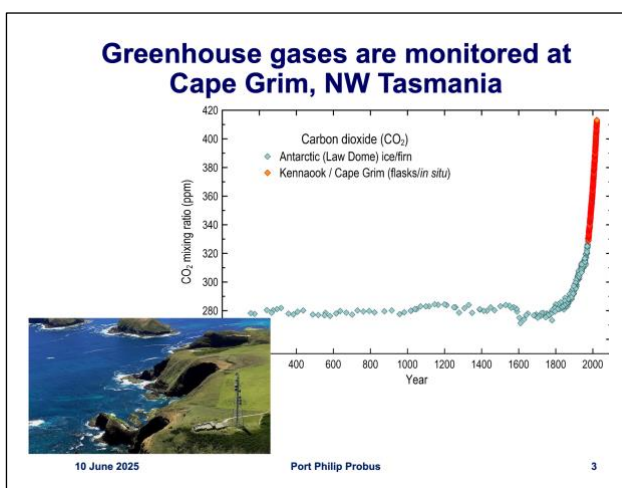
The agenda for the General Meetings of the club has standing items for members to present brief presentations to the group on their Personal Interests or Volunteer work. In addition, recent inductees are invited to present their Personal Profile Talks. In both cases, members are invited to contact the Secretary to arrange suitable times. These talks represent an excellent opportunity for members to engage with their fellow members."

Vaughan Beck – Secretary - Mob: 0418 362 792 Email: vbeck@bigpond.com

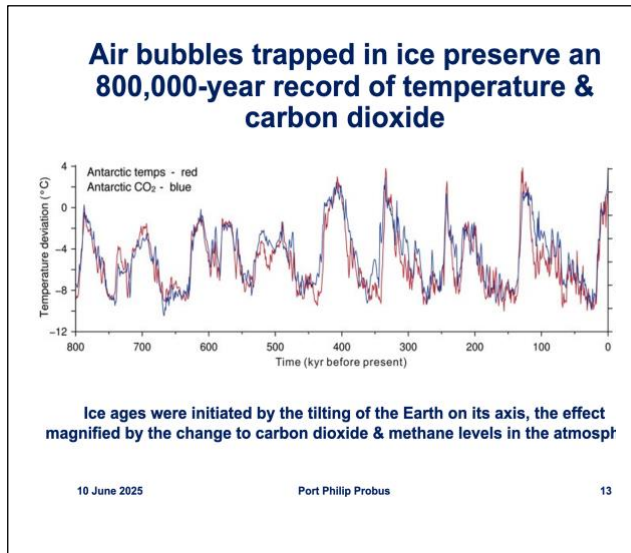
Report on June Speaker – Dr. Graeme Pearman



Graeme delivered a very interesting talk on carbon dioxide variability in our atmosphere, starting with the CSIRO Cape Grim (NW Tasmania) measurements in the 1950's and showing similar concentrations from ice-core data going back some 800,000 years. The effect of increasing carbon dioxide concentrations on our climate was discussed. Graeme showed that our increasingly heavy demand for energy poses future societal challenges, and that some difficult decisions about future energy sources will have to be made. Some of Graeme's slides are reproduced here.



40th Anniversary Edition



Risk assess by considering

The state of knowledge shows the:

- Reality of the greenhouse warming effect
- Sensitivity of the Earth's climate to small temperature changes
- Longevity of any change to the composition of the atmosphere

Established with high levels of probability by the global community of multidisciplinary climate scientists reporting peer reviewed research every 6 years through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Each of these components of knowledge is largely unknown to the majority (>99.9%) of the community!!!

10 June 2025 Port Philip Probus 16

[Consequent to Ross Fardon's spoken rebuttal at the meeting, he has circulated a written version,(takes about 1/4 hour) to some people he knows well, and both that and his fuller, say 1-hour version are available to anyone who Emails him at rossfardon@gmail.com – Ed]

Colin Adam Speakers' Co-ordinator Ph Tel: 9889 4774 Mob: 0418 483 136
cmadam@bigpond.com

Coffee and Conversation

The next Coffee and Conversation will be held at

10.30 am Tuesday 22th July 2025

at Rylands, 349 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn East not far from Camberwell Junction and on the route of the 70 and 75 trams.

Please let Allan know if you are coming. Numbers are limited and coffee has to be ordered. Note Coffee and pastry is now \$10.

Allan Brownrigg, C & C Coordinator: Ph 0420 401 310 or 03 9193 7785

ambrownrigg@optusnet.com.au

ALMONER

Members who wish to inform the Club of the illness of themselves or of others, please contact;

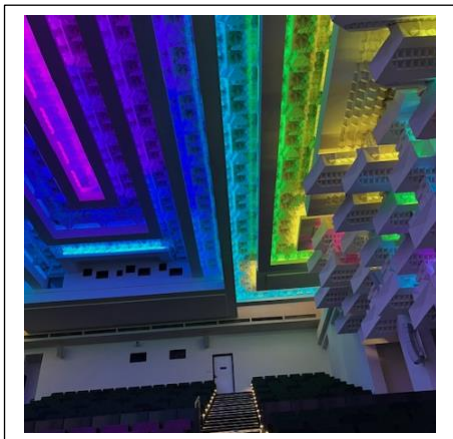
Ross Fardon telephone 03 9874 6838, or e-mail:- rossfardon@gmail.com

Report of June Visit – Capital Theatre, Swanston St.



Our visit was to the Capitol Theatre in the city. Darren, our guide, showed us many photos of what the original theatre was like. It was designed by Marion and Walter Burley Griffin and had seating for 2000 people! In the sixties because of TV, it was reduced to 700 by putting in a concrete slab and turning the bottom section into shops. Apparently, an office block was built at the same time to help with costs and the original projectionists had to access the projection room via this building.

There were also eight offices built above the theatre. These were all used to help pay for the theatre. Those eight offices are now apartments



We were then shown into the theatre and viewed the famous ceiling. The changing coloured lights were amazing. Originally they were all separate bulbs. Darren told us about the organ which is to be re- established there. We donated to that fund happily as it will be great to hear it there again. The final part of our visit was into a section that had been closed off for 60 years. It was the ladies boudoir and section for them. This was overlooked by the Men's section!



The scrap of carpet that had been found has been reproduced and used in this area and in some of the public places. RMIT now owns the theatre and the restoration of it has been carefully done. It is still used as a lecture theatre. Screenings of films, plays and many other activities regularly occur.

Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963

susanrlharraway@gmail.com

40th Anniversary Edition

July Visit – National Communications Museum

10.30 am Tuesday 15 July

Our July visit is to the National Communications Museum (NCM), which is located at **375 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn**, inside a refurbished 1939 telephone exchange, where some original equipment is still operational. The tour should be most interesting and remind us of how we communicated in society in the past. Housed in a historic 1939 telephone exchange building, transformed by award-winning architects Carr Design Group, NCM features two expansive floors of displays. At the heart of the museum is a heritage telecommunications collection dating back to the 1850s, passionately collected for over 60 years by volunteers across Australia. This collection is presented in dialogue with contemporary technologies, activations and commissions that explore the development of technologies past, present and future.

The tour is a Curatorial Guided Tour at \$32 per person. The guided part of the visit should last for about an hour with some time to browse afterwards. NCM is specially opening for us, as they are normally closed on Tuesdays.

A 12:00 pm lunch booking has been made at Axil at 322 Burwood Rd. It is located on the opposite side of Burwood Rd towards the city. We will cross Glenferrie Rd. to get there. Could participants please transfer \$32 per person into the bank account of the club before Tuesday, 8th July. Please remember to state your name and 'July Visit' when making the payment.

A/C name: Probus Club of Port Phillip BSB: 033058 A/C No. 750921.

If paying by cash or cheque, please tender the correct money in a sealed envelope at the front desk at the July Lunch Meeting. Please write your name and 'July Visit' on the front of the envelope.

Visit Venue: 375 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn. Dedrie and Jim Green

Visits Coordinator - Susan Harraway – Ph 0447 941 963 susanrlharraway@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**

Mob: 0408 308 382 Email graham.marshall8@icloud.com

Please send copy for the next newsletter to Graham

Closing date for the **August 2025** Newsletter is: **am – Tuesday, July 29th**

Cultural Notes – Book Review: Men of Yesterday

Book Review: Men of Yesterday by Margaret Kiddle (MUP 1961): An Australian Classic



Ercildoune in the late 19th Century

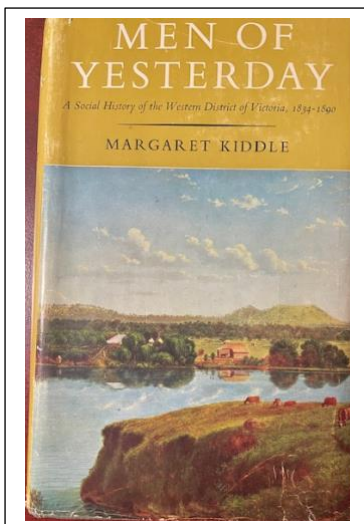
By Graham Marshall

Sometime in 1968, I remember clambering through the half ruined nineteenth century mansion, Ercildoune, between Beaufort and Ballarat. And what a remarkable building it still was, even in its abandoned uninhabitable state. (It has since been restored – Probus Club members visited it as part of the 2008 Getaway to Ballarat – See Mal Fleming’s comments earlier)

As Margaret Kiddle described Ercildoune in her wonderful book “Men of Yesterday” “ *It rose out of the bush then as it rises now, a small Scottish manor, with diamond paned windows clothed in ivy and set in a landscaped garden amongst oaks, elm and willows* ”

The house was built by the Learmonth brothers, Thomas and Somerville, in the late 1830’s soon after they took up their squatting run of 50,000 acres with over 13,000 sheep. The story of the Learmonth brothers was one among many of the squatters who set out to make their fortunes by squatting on Victoria’s supposedly empty lands.

Some, like the Learmonth, did well and returned to the “old country”. Most however stayed, struggled and failed or else survived and became very rich like Niel Black whose squatting run was near present day Terang.



Though first published in 1961 and out of print for many years (it is still readily available second hand) *Men of Yesterday* is a genuine Australian classic. It tells a tale of the early years of squatting (1834 to early 1850s) when the frontier wars with the local Victorian aboriginal groups were most intense, and the squatters were struggling on many other fronts.

Kiddle then takes the story through the period 1850 to 1890 when the squatters fought for what they regarded as *their* land during the period of the Selection Acts of the 1860s when many of the

40th Anniversary Edition

squatting runs were put up for sale. However, from their redoubt in the Victorian Legislative Council (with its very restricted franchise) and the Melbourne Club the squatters with Niel Black as one of their leaders, fought to hold onto as much of their original selected land as possible.

While late nineteenth century Victoria was renowned for its liberal and democratic leaders – Alfred Deakin, among others – Niel Black and his fellow conservatives did their utmost to thwart them and partly succeeded.

60 years after I first read it, Men of Yesterday is still a rattling good read.

Newsletter Editor – **Graham Marshall**

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Please send copy for the next newsletter to Graham

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